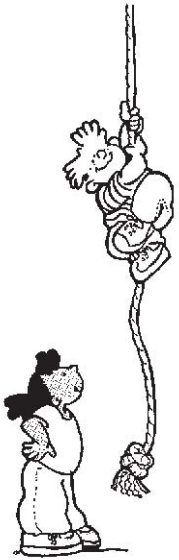


What every 4-H leader should know about 4-H Cloverbuds

We all want our kids to grow into good, confident, responsible adults. After all, our kids are the future. But, how do we make it happen? How do we build the self esteem that is so vital to success in life?

As a 4-H volunteer, you know that the Illinois 4-H program has a long history of helping young people, ages 8-19, grow into well-adjusted, productive adults. For years, 4-H members have learned about the importance of gaining new skills, making positive decisions, and communicating effectively with others.



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We also know that young children need some of these same skills. They need to have successful learning experiences. They need to learn how to share, work together, and get along with others. And, they need to learn how to make new friends and communicate in positive ways.

4-H is available to youngsters ages 5-7 through the *4-H Cloverbud* program.

The *4-H Cloverbud* program is only a phone call away. Contact your local Extension office.

You Know What 4-H Can Do for Young People

4-H Cloverbuds



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Now See What It Can Do for Kids, Ages 5-7

What is the 4-H Cloverbud program?

The *4-H Cloverbud* program is an opportunity that helps build confident kids. Specially designed for youngsters ages five through seven, the *4-H Cloverbud* program gets kids excited about learning.

The *4-H Cloverbud* program uses hands-on learning activities to help kids explore art, plants and animals, science, and the environment. Youngsters also engage in group activities that promote personal development, healthy life-styles, and a sense of citizenship.

4-H Cloverbud members attend fun-filled meetings that include a learning activity, recreation period and snack time. A trained *4-H Cloverbud* volunteer leads the meetings with help from parents.

The *4-H Cloverbud* program works best when parents are involved. Parents should be encouraged to actively support the efforts of the *4-H Cloverbud* group. Helping with special events, refreshments, and transportation are just some ways parents can get involved.



How is the 4-H Cloverbud program different?

The *4-H Cloverbud* program uses hands-on learning and group activities that are so familiar in traditional 4-H groups.

But, there are some important differences in the *4-H Cloverbud* program. The *4-H Cloverbud* program is activity-based. This means that *4-H Cloverbud* groups use short activities that create a cooperative and fun approach to learning. The goal is for *4-H Cloverbud* members to have immediate success in their learning efforts.

The *4-H Cloverbud* program is not a mini-4-H group. Rather, it is a unique educational program, with specific learning goals that are appropriate for children ages 5–7.

The *4-H Cloverbud* program is also non-competitive. This means that 4-H premiums are not available to *4-H Cloverbud* members. However, counties may offer a non-competitive exhibition at 4-H shows to give *4-H Cloverbud* members a chance to display their accomplishments.

How does the 4-H Cloverbud program work?

4-H Cloverbud groups can be started in lots of different ways. The *Cloverbud* program can be offered in school classrooms, in after-school programs, or as part of a local 4-H program.

4-H Cloverbud groups, that are part of the local 4-H program, have their own meetings with planned activities. The meetings are usually an hour long and include a learning activity, recreation period, and snack time. These *4-H Cloverbud* groups can function as an independent group or as a "project group" affiliated with a community 4-H club. In either case, a qualified *4-H Cloverbud* volunteer leader oversees the *4-H Cloverbud* meeting with assistance from parent helpers.

4-H Cloverbud volunteers receive training and materials to help them lead *4-H Cloverbud* groups. The *4-H Cloverbud* materials include activities for meetings, organizing tips and strategies for involving parents.

Give kids, ages 5–7, a chance to experience 4-H in your community. Contact your local Extension office to find out how you can get involved with *the 4-H Cloverbud program*.